

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/923,543

Examiner

Fred I. Ehichioya

Applicant(s)

HIGASHIGAWA, LEVAN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to August 24, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17 and 18 (Renumbered 1 - 16).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

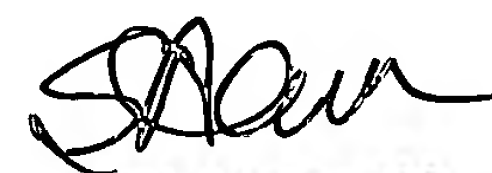
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of _____ Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on August 24, 2004.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. This application is in condition for allowance.

During telephone conversation with Thomas Brown, Attorney for the Applicant, Registration Number 44,450 on October 15, 2004 authorizations for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims,

Please amend claims 1, 11, 16 and 18.

Please cancel claims 6 and 14.

Amended claim 1 (renumbered 1).

Claim 1. A link tree forming apparatus for setting individually selectable links for a plurality of objects displayed on a screen to form an overall object link tree, said apparatus comprising:

position information acquiring unit acquiring position information for each object;

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link setting unit setting, on the basis of said acquired position information, a link between an m-th object and an n-th *object* when only said n-th object exists in a predetermined direction with reference to said m-th object, said link setting unit alternatively setting a link based on a distance of each object from said m-th object in said predetermined direction when a plurality of objects exist in said predetermined direction with reference to said m-th object; and

converting unit converting, when a plurality of distances from said m-th object to said n-th object are defined, the position and size of said n-th object into those of a substitute object, by using as parameters at least one of the positions, sizes and directions of said n-th object at the shortest distance and at the longest distance among said plurality of distances,

wherein said position information acquiring unit acquires numeric values converted by said converting unit.

Amended claim 11 (renumbered 10).

Claim 11. A link tree forming method for setting individually selectable links for a plurality of objects displayed on a screen to form an overall object link tree, said method comprising:

first processing for setting a link between an m-th object and an n-th object when only said n-th object exists in a predetermined direction with reference to said m-th object;

second processing for setting a link based on a distance of each object existing in a predetermined direction from said m-th object when a plurality of

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objects exist in said predetermined direction with reference to said m-th object;

and

a converting step of, when a plurality of distances from said m-th object to said n-th object are defined, converting the position and size of said n-th object into those of a substitute object, by using as parameters at least one of positions, sizes and directions of said n-th object at the shortest distance and at the longest distance among said plurality of distances,

wherein said first processing and said second processing are executed on the basis of numeric values converted in said converting step.

Amended claim 16 (renumbered 14).

Claim 16. A link tree forming program for setting individually selectable links for a plurality of objects displayed on a screen to form an overall object link tree, said program adapted to execute on a computer:

first processing for setting a link between an m-th object and an n-th object when only said n-th object exists in a predetermined direction with reference to said m-th object;

second processing for setting a link based on a distance of each object existing in a predetermined direction from said m-th object when a plurality of objects exist in said predetermined direction with reference to said m-th object;

and

a converting step of, when a plurality of distances from said m-th object to said n-th object are defined, converting the position and size of said n-th object

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into those of a substitute object, by using as parameters at least one of positions, sizes and directions of said n-th object at the shortest distance and at the longest distance among said plurality of distances,

wherein said first processing and said second processing are executed on the basis of numeric values converted in said converting step.

Amended claim 18 (renumbered 16).

Claim 18. A computer-readable recording medium having a link tree forming program recorded thereon, said program adapted to execute on a computer, when setting individually selectable links for a plurality of objects displayed on a screen to form an overall object link tree,

first processing for setting a link between an m-th object and an n-th object when only said n-th object exists in a predetermined direction with reference to said m-th object,

second processing for setting a link based on a distance of each object existing in a predetermined direction from said m-th object when a plurality of objects exist in said predetermined direction with reference to said m-th object; and

a converting step of, when a plurality of distances from said m-th object to said n-th object are defined, converting the position and size of said n-th object into those of a substitute object, by using as parameters at least one of positions, sizes and directions of said n-th object at the shortest distance and at the longest distance among said plurality of distances,

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wherein said first processing and said second processing are executed on the basis of numeric values converted in said converting step.

3. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 16, 17 and 18 (re-numbered 1 – 16) are allowed over the prior art of record.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious the recited feature "A link tree forming apparatus for setting individually selectable links for a plurality of objects displayed on a screen to form an overall object link tree, said apparatus comprising:

position information acquiring unit acquiring position information for each object;

link setting unit setting, on the basis of said acquired position information, a link between an m-th object and an n-th *object* when only said n-th object exists in a predetermined direction with reference to said m-th object, said link setting unit alternatively setting a link based on a distance of each object from said m-th object in said predetermined direction when a plurality of objects exist in said predetermined direction with reference to said m-th object; and

converting unit converting, when a plurality of distances from said m-th object to said n-th object are defined, the position and size of said n-th object into those of a substitute object, by using as parameters at least one of the positions, sizes and directions of said n-th object at the shortest distance and at the longest distance among said plurality of distances,

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wherein said position information acquiring unit acquires numeric values converted by said converting unit", as recited in the independent claims.

The dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred I. Ehichioya whose telephone number is 571-272-4034. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Fred I. Ehichioya
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2162

October 15, 2004



SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER